



CITY OF DURHAM
Durham Parks and Recreation
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NEWS ALERT

Parks and Recreation Department



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Durham Recognized as 2016 Playful City USA Community *257 communities exhibiting Playability to be recognized as part of 2016 Playful City USA Program*



Durham, NC: Durham is being honored with a 2016 Playful City USA designation for the eighth time. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the national recognition program honors cities and towns across the country for making their cities more playable.

It was a busy year of play for Durham in 2015. Durham Parks and Recreation (DPR) received grant awards funding for the installation of Play Prints at Holton Career and Resource Center, renovations to Holt School Road Park and the Community Build at Red Maple Park.

In addition, the Durham Parks and Recreation Foundation was formed as a fundraising agency for the preservation, strengthening and expansion of parks, trails, open space and recreational opportunities in Durham. The city also funded the conceptual plan for five priority trails that will connect neighborhoods to the existing trail system, transit, parks, schools and commercial areas.

“We are committed to what we do,” said Durham Parks and Recreation Director Rhonda B. Parker. “We are honored to be recognized for what we love to do and that is provide more opportunities for our community to get out and play.”

Communities across the country are creating innovative ways to bring back play and attract residents through family friendly activities. Interactive sidewalk art, designated play spaces on trails and the transformation of schoolyards into active play areas are just a few examples of how cities are becoming more playful.

“We are thrilled to recognize these communities that have invested their time and efforts to put kids first,” said KaBOOM! CEO James Siegal. “*Balanced and active play* is crucial to the well-being of kids and the communities that they thrive in. By integrating play into cities, the leaders of Playful Cities USA are working to attract and retain the thousands of families that want homes in close proximity to safe places to play.”

To learn more about these cities, see the full list of the 257 communities named 2016 Playful City USA honorees, or to gather more information on the Playful City USA program, visit www.playfulcityusa.org. We also encourage you to take part in the conversation on [#playability](#) with these thought leaders on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

About Durham Parks and Recreation

Durham Parks and Recreation provides opportunities for the Durham community to “Play More.” Guided by the City’s Strategic Plan, we strive to help residents discover, explore and enjoy life through creative and challenging recreational choices that contribute to their physical, emotional and social health. To learn more about Durham Parks and Recreation, visit www.DPRPlayMore.org, call (919) 560-4355 or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DurhamParksandRecreation.

About KaBOOM!

KaBOOM! is the national non-profit dedicated to giving all kids – particularly those growing up in poverty in America – the childhood they deserve filled with balanced and active play, so they can thrive. Since 1996, KaBOOM! has collaborated with partners to build, open or improve nearly 16,300 playgrounds, engaged more than one million volunteers and served 8.1 million kids. KaBOOM! creates great places to play, inspires communities to promote and support play, and works to drive the national discussion about the importance of play in fostering healthy and productive lives. To learn why #playmatters: visit kaboom.org or join the conversation at twitter.com/kaboom or facebook.com/kaboom.

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